



Secretary of the Air Force Michael W. Wynne receives a 455th Air Expeditionary Wing memento from Air Force Col. Michael Isherwood, 455th AEW vice commander, at the conclusion of his visit to Bagram Airfield on Dec. 20. Wynne visited deployed Airmen in his first tour to the region.

Photo by Air Force Staff Sgt. Marcus McDonald 455th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

Cover: Army Spc. Ian Hunter keeps a watchful eye from a mountainside while on a patrol during Operation Pizmah in Dey Chopan District, Zabul Province on Dec. 11. Hunter is a rifleman with 2nd Platoon, B Company, 2nd Battalion, 503rd Parachute Infantry Regiment from Lisbon Falls, Maine.

Photo by Army Pfc. Vincent Fusco, 20th Public Affairs Detachment

Correction: Photos in the Dec. 19 Freedom Watch edition for Airmen keep Kandahar Airfield fully operational were taken by Air Force Tech. Sgts. Lineus Davis and Virgil McGee.

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#### Freedom Watch Staff

Commander - Maj. T.G Taylor

NCOIC - Staff Sgt. Matthew MacRoberts
Editor - Sgt. Douglas DeMaio
Journalists - Staff Sgt. Ken Denny,

Spc. Jason Krawczyk, Spc. Tiffany Evans,
Pfc. Vincent Fusco

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# Task force offers workshop on U.S. citizenship, naturalization

By Army Capt. Manny Anon, Jr.

Combined Joint Task Force-76 Legal Assistance Office

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan -- President George W. Bush signed an executive order July 3, 2002 that, for a limited time, allows for the expedited citizenship of all U.S. service members serving in active duty status after Sept. 11, 2002.

Previously, service members could only qualify to apply for citizenship if they had served in the armed forces for at least three years or had been a permanent resident for five years. Under the new rule, as long as the service member is currently serving in active-duty status during the global war on terrorism, he or she is eligible to apply.

Legislation passed Nov. 24, 2003, allows a military applicant for U.S. citizenship to take the exam, the interview and the oath while overseas. The law authorizes and encourages commanders to provide military leave and transportation to qualifying service members for naturalization purposes. The legislation also reduced military service required for noncitizen service members to be eligible for citizenship from three years to one, and it waived all application fees for service members.

To assist Soldiers in obtaining their citizenship, the

Combined Joint Task Force-76 Legal Assistance Office is holding a U.S. Citizenship and Naturalization Workshop on Jan. 27.

The day will begin at 6:45 a.m. in the Bagram chapel and will consist of taking Soldiers' picture and fingerprints and assisting them in completing the U.S. Citizens and Immigration Services Naturalization Application.

Those Soldiers who wish to attend must bring their alien registration card or a copy of both sides. Information on the five-year history of previous employment and residence data must include the to and from dates. Also, applicants addresses must include street numbers and names, house or apartment numbers, city, state, ZIP code and country.

If applicable, each male Soldier must have a selective service number and the date of his registration with the selective service. Soldiers can go online and retrieve this information at http://www.sss.gov.

The Soldier also needs to bring evidence of military service -- such as the Form 4-1 or 4-2 enlistment contract, Department of Defense Form 214, mobilization orders, or a recent leave and earning statement and the alien registration number of their noncitizen children.

For more information, call the Bagram legal center at 231-4603.



#### Have a nice day

<u>Dari</u>

Rooze-e-shuma khoosh (Rooz-a-shoo-mah hoosh)

**Pashtu** 

Woraz moo nikmorgha (War-ahz moo nik-more-ha)

Abdul Ahad Mohmand is the first Afghan astronaut. Before he became an astronaut, Mohmand served in the Afghan air force. Mohmand became an astronaut in 1988 spending nine days in space aboard the Mir space station. He made observations of Afghanistan during this mission. Abdul Ahad Mohmand was an Afghan citizen, he was born in Afghanistan, and he trained in the Soviet Union as a pilot.

# **Oruzgan Province benefits** from Coalition outreach

By Army Sgt. 1st Class **Rick Scavetta** Combined Joint Task Force-76 **Public Affairs** 

#### BAGRAM AIRFIELD,

**Afghanistan** -- Several Coalition outreach efforts are under way in Oruzgan Province to assist the people and extend the influence of the Afghan government.

Coalition Soldiers have begun a \$350,000 project to repair 10 kilometers of roads between Tarin Kowt and Deh Rawood. The project, which is due to be completed in April, includes installation of irrigation pipes, causeways and foot bridges. The project also includes repairing roadside ditches and crowning the road for proper water runoff.

Coalition reconstruction teams are also working with the government of Afghanistan to support a \$40,000 water and sanitation project to rehabilitate irrigation systems. The project, which should be done in January, will increase crop yield for the villagers, who also gain valuable employment during the project's construction.

Meanwhile, Coalition troops organized a \$25,000 education project focusing on vocational training. The program, which is expected to be completed in March, teaches villagers carpentry and masonry skills and how to use modern trade tools.

"The people of Oruzgan can look forward to prosperity in the future under the leadership of the Afghan government and with support of the country's Coalition partners," said Army Lt. Col John Harney, Combined Joint Task Force-76 director of civil-military operations. "Projects like these will help Afghans in Oruzgan to achieve their goals."

# Tahkim-e Sohl: **U.S.** military releases dozens of detainees from **Bagram Airfield**

By Army Sgt. Tara Teel Combined Joint Task Force-76 Public Affairs

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan -- After determined to no longer present a threat, 47 Afghan detainees were released Dec. 15 from the Bagram Theater Internment Facility as part of the Government of Afghanistan's Program Tahkim-e Sohl.

Each detainee was given a gym bag containing a Koran, prayer blanket, Meals-Ready-to-Eat, bottles of water and new clothes. All personal items were also returned.

The release is part of an ongoing effort by the U.S. to support the Government of Afghanistan's efforts toward peace.



Photo by Army Capt. Pete Perzel, Task Force 510th

Postal Company

Task Force 510th Postal Company Soldiers load about 7,500 pounds of mail into a Task Force Saber CH-47 Chinook helicopter headed for Asadabad and Camp Blessing the night of Dec. 10.

If you have high-quality photos of service members supporting the Coalition mission or enjoying well-deserved off-duty time, please email them to freedomwatch@baf.afgn.army.mil. Please include full identification and caption information, including who is in the photo and what action is taking place.

# Afghan bank expands in Kabul Coalition funds \$69,000 in renovation

By Army Sgt.
Phillip Chang
117th Mobile Public Affairs
Detachment

#### KABUL, Afghanistan --

A dedication ceremony was held Dec. 18 for the completion of a new branch of Da Afghanistan Bank here.

This is the third bank to be renovated by Combined Forces Command - Afghanistan through the commander's emergency response program.

The project, costing more than \$69,000, will help to support the Individual Salary Payment program, which provides secure facilities needed for conducting financial actions between the government and its citizens, said Army Lt. Col. Jack K. Trowbridge, team chief for the Ministry of Finance of Afghanistan.

"This renovation will help support the ISP program, supporting fair, accurate and direct payment to the government employees of Afghanistan," said Trowbridge during a speech at the ceremony.

"These banks will increase the availability of this program to over 40,000 additional employees and provide a vision of the success that comes from the excellent relationship and cooperation between the Coalition and the Afghan people," he added.

"With this new branch that is situated in the middle of the city, we can better serve the government employees," said Noorullah Delawari, governor of Da Afghanistan Bank

"Afghan people will be receiving their salaries and benefits through this facility for many years to come," Delawari said.



Noorullah Delawari, governor of Da Afghanistan Bank, and Army Lt. Col. Jack K. Trowbridge, team chief for the Ministry of Finance, complete a ribbon cutting here Dec. 18. A ceremony was held for the completion of a new bank renovation project.

### **Enduring Voices**

How do you plan to invest the extra money you've earned this deployment?



Army Spc. Maria Vidales, B Company, 159th Aviation Regiment

"I had a money market account set up before I deployed. I'm looking into IRAs and different ways to save for retirement."



Army Spc. Grover Munn, 107th Engineer Battalion "Pay for college."



Air Force Tech. Sgt. Khristian Kirchhofer, 455th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Group "Pay off some bills and take the family on a vacation."



Army Chief Warrant Officer J.D. Souchek, Task Force 165 Military Intelligence "I plan to put my money into my newborn son's college fund."



An Afghan National Army noncommissioned officer organizes a platoon officer helps a soldier hold his weapon correctof soldiers into ranks and gets them ready for their next drill.



An Afghan National Army noncommissioned ly during infantry tactics drills.

# **NCO Corps providing foundation** for growing Afghan National Army

By Army Staff Sgt. Mason T. Lowery Office of Security Cooperation - Afghanistan Public Affairs

#### KABUL, Afghanistan --

At the heart of every successful military organization is a group of professional leaders who embody the core and individual values that define that organization.

They are called noncommissioned officers -- the soldiers on the ground, making sure their officers' orders are carried out, making sure soldiers are taken care of.

"We are the backbone of the Afghan National Army," said ANA 3rd Brigade, 201st Corps Command Sgt. Maj. Shamshadin, describing the role of the ANA NCO.

"Officers make plans; we

implement them. We make the Army strong. And, as we make the Army strong, we make the country strong. All strong countries have strong NCOs," he said.

Army Command Sgt. Maj. John Adams, the senior NCO for Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix, and his fellow NCOs mentor the Afghan NCOs and recognize the ANA's progress in building a strong foundation of professionalism within their

"Senior NCOs in the ANA care about their soldiers," Adams said.

Shamshadin "NCOs have to take care of their soldiers," he said. "They have to know their soldiers. They have to ask about their problems and

help them solve those problems. NCOs are soldiers' role models; they have to have a positive impact on them and look out for them.

"Every day, I check on my junior NCOs and make sure they are checking on their soldiers," he said. "I make sure they are training their soldiers. I make sure they are letting their soldiers study, giving them opportunities for leadership themselves. I want them to make sure their soldiers are ready to be NCOs."

Shamshadin said he looks at a number of qualifications, including civilian and military education, marksmanship, physical fitness, discipline and leadership potential when considering soldiers for promotion to

One of the challenges of a young army like the ANA, however, is a lack of experience in its NCO Corps. While all Afghan NCOs have three years or less experience, they have, however, lived in a country at war for more than a generation. The ANA and Coalition are combining those life experiences with outside guidance to try to shape soldiers' efforts in securing Afghanistan.

"Senior NCOs were in on the ground floor when the ANA was formed," Shamshadin said. "They have experience to teach their junior NCOs and soldiers."

During a recent ANA lead-

See ANA, next page

# ANA, U.S. troops conduct joint operation

# By Army Sgt. Chuck D. Meseke Task Force Devil Public Affairs

BAK, Afghanistan Paratroopers from Company, 2nd Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, and Afghan National Army soldiers from the 3rd Company, 1st Kandak, conducted operations here in the Khost Province on Nov. 23 to disrupt potential enemy movement through the border region.

The operation was led by the ANA and supported by the paratroopers from Task Force White Devil based out of Forward Operating Base Salerno.

The patrol was an exchange of roles for the troops, said Army 1st Lt. Joseph W. Galvin, a Redwood City, Calif., native, and the executive officer and acting commander of A Co.

Normally, Coalition forces will lead an operation with the ANA in a support role, he said.

The day began with Galvin showing the ANA company

commander how to plan the operation with the use of a terrain model.

"The planning helped a lot. Normally you will see the ANA just charge an objective as quickly as possible," Galvin said. "This time they were able to plan their moving pieces and organize a strategy."

The objective was a series of caves that were suspected to be frequented by terrorists looking for a place to stay after crossing the Afghan boarder from Pakistan. As ANA and Coalition forces moved onto the objective, the paratroopers set up an outer cordon and let the ANA go to work.

"They pretty much did all the hard work in the operation," said Army Spc. Matthew R. Wills, a Portland, Mich., native, and grenadier with A Co. "The only thing we really did besides set up the perimeter was have our engineers (destroy) the caves."

Once the caves were found to be free of enemy forces, engineers with A Co. set



U.S. and Afghan National Army soldiers rest during an operation in the Khost Province on Nov. 23.

explosive charges to destroy them and prevent their further use by terrorists.

Since arriving in Afghanistan in April, paratroopers have been working with Afghan soldiers on an increasingly frequent basis. A recent development in the working relationship with the ANA was the Coalition forces playing a supporting role.

"It was a good mission for (the ANA) to get out on," Galvin said. "It gave their company commander a lot of confidence.

"The commander gained

experience from the mission planning which ultimately led to the success of the mission and that is something they will use in the future," Galvin said.

With the future of Afghanistan's security in the hands of Afghan forces such as the ANA and Afghan National Police, the confidence and capability of Afghan security forces is a key mission for Coalition forces.

"They were able to get their feet wet; now they know they can do it themselves," Wills said.

#### ANA, from Page 6

ership conference held in Kabul, U.S. Army and ANA senior NCOs worked together to draft a set of core and individual values for the ANA.

"Their values track ours closely," Adams said. "They place more emphasis on their religious traditions."

Shamshadin said ANA values are based on Afghan values, and he and his NCOs uphold and promote those values with their soldiers. "We are a Muslim nation. The Army takes care of the culture. If you don't take care of your culture, how can you take care of your country? To be a national

army, you have to protect your culture.

"The people of Afghanistan want to see their army supporting their country and taking care of their culture," he said. "It's very important (that) the people trust us."

A well-organized education system is also essential for imparting these values, Shamshadin said, and the ANA is in the process of adding a staff NCO course to their existing education system for junior and senior NCOs.

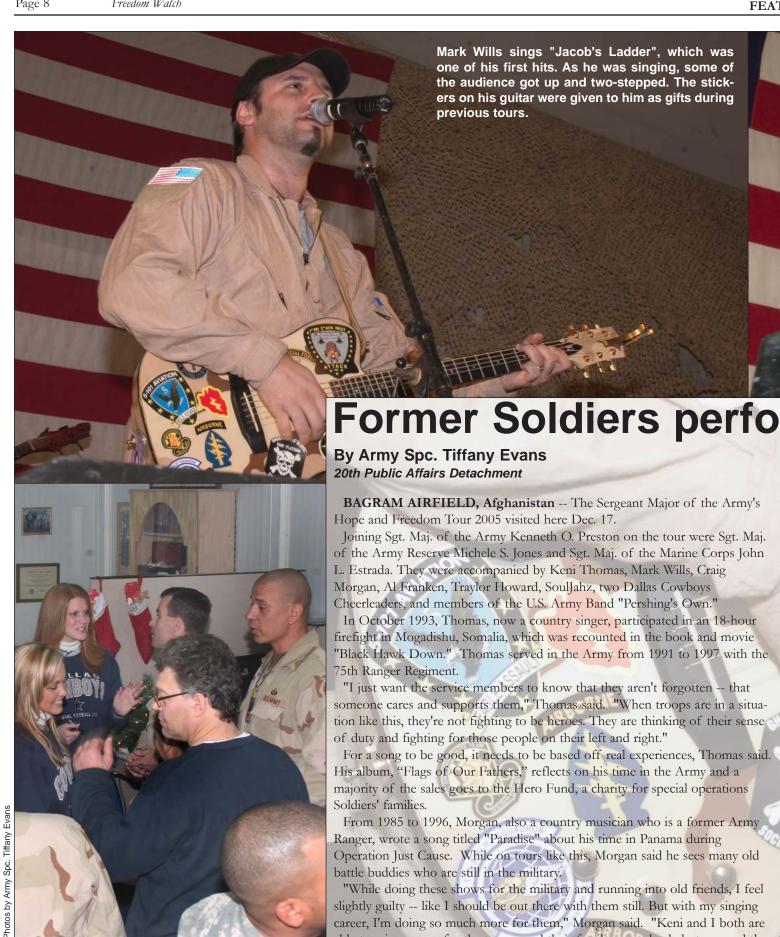
They are also developing a plan to establish leadership schools in the field that will eliminate the need for soldiers to travel to Kabul to get essential training.

"The mission is important, defending Afghanistan, but we need to train and send leaders to school too," Shamshadin explained.

Another important piece in developing professionalism is creating a library of reference material. Some U.S. Army common task training manuals and NCO guides have been translated and are being readied for distribution to the ANA.

With senior noncommissioned officers like Shamshadin taking the lead and embodying the ANA's core values, the people of Afghanistan can be certain their nation's army will continue to protect them from harm.

Freedom Watch Page 8 **FEAT** 



Dallas Cowboy Cheerleaders visit with service members who work in the Joint Operations Center.

Ranger, wrote a song titled "Paradise" about his time in Panama during Operation Just Cause. While on tours like this, Morgan said he sees many old battle buddies who are still in the military.

"While doing these shows for the military and running into old friends, I feel slightly guilty -- like I should be out there with them still. But with my singing career, I'm doing so much more for them," Morgan said. "Keni and I both are able to raise money for the troops and their families; we also help to spread the military story to a wider audience."

TURE January 2, 2006 Page 9



rm at Bagram Airfield

All of the entertainers on the tour feel like it's a privilege to entertain and meet the troops, Morgan said. Thanks to the efforts of service members worldwide, the celebrities on the tour are able to do what they do.

"I got to meet the sergeant major of the Army and many of the celebrities while pulling security for the show," said Army Pfc. Beth Yanka, a 164th Military Police Company customs agent. "They were all very friendly and just kept thanking me and the other service members for doing our job."

A UH-60 Black Hawk crew chief with C Company, 3rd Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment, Army Spc. Charles Winscott, said that the United Service Organizations tour was a great break up from the normal day-to-day activities.

"Seeing them helps to motivate me and keep me going," Winscott said. "It's that link to home and knowing, despite what we see on the news, that we are supported in the thoughts and prayers of those back home."

Historically, the holiday season is a tough time of year for service members separated from their families, Preston said. The three sergeants major used this tour to meet with their troops. Because, in the end, they are the voices for their service members.

"Our mission is to personally thank the service members and let them know that their leaders are 100 percent behind them," Preston said. "Three of our main missions are to tell the military story, get the troops public recognition and spread more good news stories.

"Bringing the USO tours to deployed service members helps to support these missions," he said.

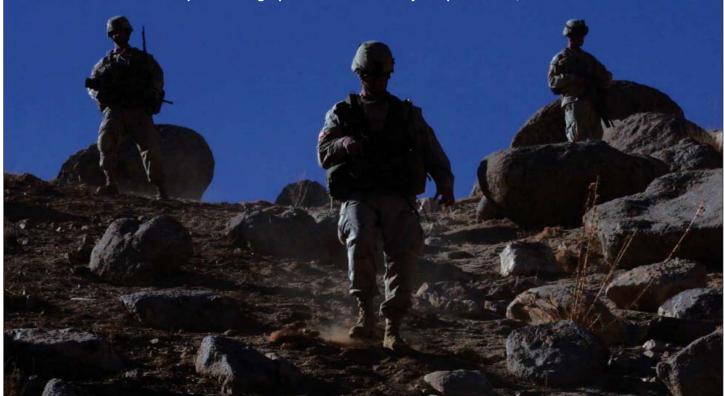
This tour had some prior service members with it who know what the troops are going through and just wanted to be part of bringing them some holiday cheer and letting them know that their efforts are not in vain.

"If anyone says that the service members are fighting and dying in vain, then they're invalidating everything that we've ever fought for and still fight for," Thomas said. "Because of the men and women on your right and left, you are here, and every day after you leave the service, you'll still be thanking them for being here with you today."



(Above) Shevy Smith plays the guitar for country singer Keni Thomas.

Soldiers from B Company 2nd Battalion, 503rd Parachute Infantry Regiment make their way down a steep mountainside while on a patrol during Operation Pizmah in Dey Chopan District, Zabul Province on Dec. 11.



# Paratroopers hunt for Taliban in Dey Chopan

By Army Pfc. Vincent Fusco 20th Public Affairs Detachment

**DEY CHOPAN, Afghanistan** -- As Operation Pizmah drew to a close Dec. 15, the Soldiers of B Company, 2nd Battalion, 503rd Parachute Infantry Regiment can see their efforts reflected in friendly smiles and cooperation from the citizens of Zabul Province.

"This area was pretty much neglected by the government," said Army Sgt. 1st Class Julio Nazario, 1st Platoon sergeant, B Co., 2-503rd, a Miami native. "Most of what the government has seen here is due to my platoon."

The mission of Operation Pizmah was for elements of B Co. to re-establish a Coalition presence in the districts of Dey Chopan, Argandab and Khaki-Afghan.

Nazario's platoon came from Forward Operating Base Baylough to Dey Chopan on Nov. 30 to support Operation Pizmah and ensure that the villages are prepared for the winter.

"The reception of the people was not too Soldier-friendly initially," Nazario said. "We started our mission by conducting patrols and encouraging support for the government with the people."

Nazario's platoon has patrolled as much as 70 kilometers per week in the Baylough Bowl, a 5 kilometer-wide area.

In the latter half of the operation, Coalition forces saw increased hostile resistance in the area. Nazario said, most of the anti-Coalition opposition came in the form of three- to fiveman teams of enemy intent on disrupting and discouraging support for the local government.

In June and July, however, Coalition forces in the area saw the most anti-Coalition activity of the year, Nazario said. Between the months of June and September, FOB Baylough took fire from 48-107 mm rockets, 39-60 mm mortars and numerous rocket-propelled grenades.

Since the area was made safer for Coalition forces, Nazario's Soldiers have helped to open two schools and a district head-quarters for the Afghan National Police, and worked to train police and Army National Army soldiers.

"For (our platoon of ANA), we started from basic training, like for any U.S. Soldier," Nazario said.

Before the ANA soldiers started to patrol with Nazario's squad, they were taught about weapons systems and movement through the field, Nazario said.

From then on, they became a consistent part of the Coalition security element, he said.

"If the ANA and ANP have the logistical support they need from the government, they'll be good to go," Nazario said.

Nazario said he hopes Zabul Province continues to receive support from the Coalition and the local government as he and his Soldiers head back to FOB Baylough to continue peacekeeping operations.

"(The people) can sleep relaxed and not worry about Taliban coming in and harassing them," he said. "The government's here to help them out, and if they ever need us, we're just a few kilometers away."



Army Staff Sgt. Dave Barberet, left, talks with Army 1st Lt. Chris O'Brien about where he and his squad have made contacts in the past during Operation Pizmah in Dey Chopan District, Zabul Province on Dec. 11. Barberet is a squad leader in 1st Platoon, B Company, 2nd Battalion, 503rd Parachute Infantry Regiment, and O'Brien is the B Co. executive officer.





(Above) Army Spc. Ian Hunter keeps a watchful eye from a mountainside while on a patrol during Operation Pizmah in Dey Chopan District, Zabul Province on Dec. 11.

(Left) Army Sgt. 1st Class Julio Nazario, facing, and 1st Lt. Chris O'Brien discuss village needs with an elder during an impromptu shura in Dey Chopan District, Zabul Province, on Dec. 11.

# Deployed Apache unit completes final spur ride

By Army Chief Warrant Officer Christopher R. Koth 2nd Squadron, 6th Cavalry

#### BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan -

- The U.S. military has a long, distinguished heritage with many customs and courtesies.

Military traditions have been around for a millennia, and while many will be timeless and passed onto future generations, some will be lost, replaced or removed.

A time-honored tradition the U.S. Army Cavalry has continued to celebrate is the spur ride, a right of passage for troopers promoting esprit de corps and unit cohesion that allows a Soldier the honor to join the coveted "Order of the Spurs."

Dec. 10, the 2nd Squadron of the 6th U.S. Cavalry, one of the last AH-64 Apache helicopter Cavalry units in Army aviation, completed its final spur ride.

This is the squadron's final deployment, and in June 2006, they will case their colors for the last time.

Soldiers who never participated in a spur ride earn their spurs by deploying with a cavalry unit to a combat theater.

This shows that they did their time in war with a cavalry unit.

The spur ride, usually a two-day event, is normally celebrated at the unit's home post. Events include a ruck



Spur ride candidate Army Capt. Jack Roberts, left, gets some officer professional development from cadre Army Maj. Scott Halverson.

march, land navigation and a group physical-training test.

Since this was the final deployment for the squadron, the Task Force Sabre commander, Army Lt. Col. Michael J. Swanson, said he wanted to conduct a spur ride in a memorable place where it hasn't ever been conducted -- Afghanistan.

Soldiers from Task Force Sabre, including some flown in from Forward Operating Base Salerno, took part in the spur ride. With a roar reminiscent of basic combat training, 20-person spur cadre marshaled the 70 candidates into a hangar to begin the ride that would allow the troopers to enter the Order of the Spur.

The candidates entered the hangar carrying rucks containing: body armor, Kevlar, clothing and other items deemed necessary for the event.

As the candidates lined up in random groups of six, forming 12 teams, the spur meister, Army 1st Sgt. Eric Hagan, D Troop, was introduced, and each candidate was issued a candle.

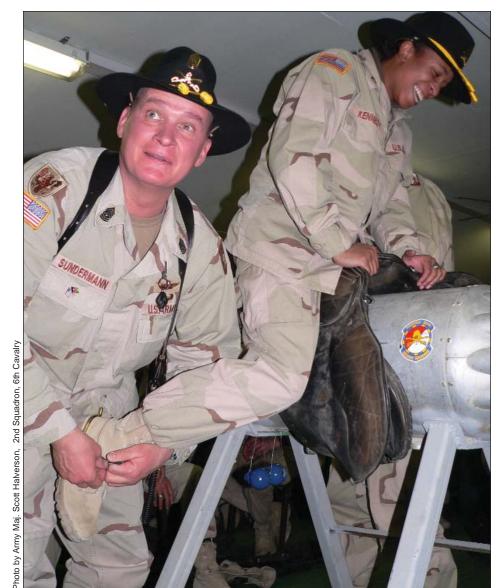
The first event was a written test on general knowledge and vehicle identification under the glow of candlelight and loud music. The task was to keep the candle lit at all times while completing the test.

The candidates depended on each other to keep their candles lit through teamwork, which was the resonating theme all night.

The second event was a group physi-



Army 1st Sgt. Eric Hagan, left, and Army Staff Sgt. Ramon Ruiz-Torres mount spurs on Army Sgt. Damon Mouser boots.



Army Command Sgt. Maj. John Sundermann puts spurs on Army Staff Sgt. Bregeet Kennedy as she joins the Order of the Spurs.

cal-training test in which each team had to do as many sit-ups and pushups as they could within a 12-minute time limit per event and finish a 2-mile run with no more than an arms length between each other. Once all of the events were complete, the scores were posted.

After completing the fitness tests, the teams changed into dry clothing and prepare for a 4-mile urban orienteering event, in place of the peacetime land navigation. They proceeded to various areas to attain items that they would need later in the evening. Each team was issued a gurney to carry the items.

They proceeded on the course to the bazaar parking lot where they picked up two sandbags, then to the North Post Exchange where they acquired a Meal-Ready-to-Eat box. The final stop was the United Service Organizations

facility to claim a box of water. Before arriving back at the hangar, all of the items were placed on their gurney, and the team had to carry it into the hangar. Once all the teams arrived back at the hangar, they were given 30 minutes to eat before the 6-mile ruck march.

After chow, the candidates donned their rucks and began the 3-mile trek to the next event on the east side of the new runway. There they had to disassemble and reassemble their weapons while blind folded.

In 20-degree weather, two candidates worked feverishly without gloves to finish the event. With blinding speed, they completed the event and then treated a "casualty" for the following event

The candidates performed medical aid to their fallen comrade by splinting

an injury and then moving the Soldier to the objective 100 meters away. Arriving at the first extraction point, a set of up-armored Humvees, they placed the wounded Soldier on the back of one vehicle, only to find it had stalled. They then pushed the Humvee another 100 meters to the second extraction point.

This site was also unsuitable for extraction, and they were forced to carry the injured comrade another 100 meters to the final extraction point.

At this extraction point, the candidates had to request a medical evacuation. Upon correctly completing the nine-line medevac request, the injured Soldier was "miraculously healed" and the troops were sent on the other half of the 6-mile road march back to the Big Windy Hangar to complete their final task.

There, they were greeted by the most senior spur holders, Swanson and Army Command Sgt. Maj. John Sundermann.

To complete the final task, the candidates had to recite "Fiddlers Green" verbatim.

Team by team, they recited the poems with pride; occasionally they stumbled, but unaffected, for they had proven their worth. After completing the poem, the senior spur holders congratulated them on the completion of the day.

After a few hours to recover, spur candidates were welcomed to the Order of the Spur at the traditional spur dinner.

Before each candidate is allowed to enter, he or she must recite "Fiddlers Green" solo to the spur cadre. With all the usual military dinning-in traditions, minus the alcohol for the grog ceremony, the candidates eagerly awaited their turn.

Beaming with pride, candidates approached the table, with the confident cavalry swagger. There the senior spur members issued them gold spurs.

Team leaders, rewarded for their leadership and team motivation, were spurred on the spot. They mounted a saddled rocket pod, and their sponsors spurred them up.

The final spur ride for 2-6 Cavalry will be a symbolic tribute to all of those who fought from the green valleys of Gettysburg to the dusty wadis of a new frontier.

"The Cavalry is not a unit, nor an airframe. It is a mission and a state of mind," Swanson said.

## Manas Air Base Outreach Society visits hospital

By Air Force Master Sgt. John E. Lasky Air Force Print News

BISHKEK, Kyrgyzstan --Six Airmen from the Manas Air Base Outreach Society donned Santa caps and visited children at a hospital and passed out presents, generated cheer and sang Christmas songs.

Air Force Master Sgt. Dan Cline and seven other Airmen left nearby Manas Air Base with toys gathered by family and friends.

They traveled to the center of Kyrgyzstan's capital city.

"My family sent care packages of toys, but most of it came from a school project organized by a teacher," Cline said. "They're going to be so happy to know the gifts made these kids happy," said the 376th Air Expeditionary Wing firefighter.

The gifts weren't the only thing that made the children happy. Along with the presents, balloons, paper roses and airplanes also brought smiles.

"Without medicine, by talking to (these Airmen), by having these Airmen here, (the children) feel better," said the hospital coordinator, Dr. Damira Baizakova. "It gives them emotional support during this hard treatment."

The Airmen also built a new playground for the children at the hospital through the donation of off-duty time and labor.

In the area surrounding Manas International Airport, MABOS has spent more than 100,000 hours and \$55,000 building long-lasting friendship with the community," said Air Force Col. Randy Kee, 376th AEW commander.

"If we can win the hearts and minds here maybe we can help these people understand the goodness of our Airmen and of the American people," the colonel said.

Upon entering the room, a couple of children sat directly by their American friends. Recognizing Air Force Staff Sgt. Ezer Garcia as one of the Airmen who had been there before, a little girl made a beeline for him and sat directly by his side.



Airman 1st Class William Kretsch presents a gift to a young boy from the cancer ward. Kretsch was visiting the ward with the Manas Air Base Outreach Society, which donated more than 100,000 hours of off-duty time and \$50,000 while building relationships with the communities near the base.

"It's taken a little while to warm up to us, but now they run in and sit on our laps," said Garcia, a firefighter crew chief deployed here from Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

"The American people have very kind hearts," Baizakova said. "They are very good friends and they love children.

"The children feel this love

coming from the soldiers," Baizakova said.

For many of the children, the strangers from a country halfway around the world are their only visitors, sparking one child to say he wants to join the U.S. Air Force when he grows up.

But right now, learning how to sing "Jingle Bells" with his friends will do just fine



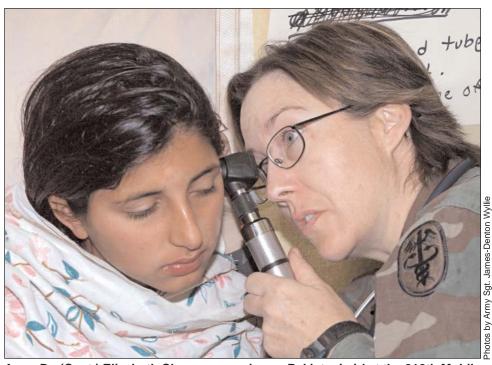
### Flying flags for America

Air Force Staff Sgt. Michael Roll loads
American flags into an A-10 Thunderbolt II
travel pod at Bagram Airfield on Christmas
Day. More than 100 of the flags were flown
Dec. 25 for individuals, church groups and
school children throughout America. Roll, a
native of Greenville, Ky., is deployed here
from Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz. He
is a life support technician with the 354th
Expeditionary Fighter Squadron.

Photo by Air Force Chief Master Sgt. David L. Stuppy 455th Expeditionary Maintenance Group

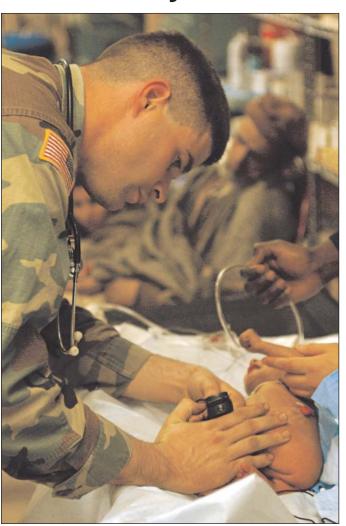


Marine Lance Cpls. John Cockran, left, and Jeffe Radcliff prepare humanitarian supplies for delivery.



Army Dr. (Capt.) Elizabeth Clawson examines a Pakistani girl at the 212th Mobile Army Surgical Hospital screening tent.

## U.S. military continues operations in Pakistan



By Army Sgt. James-Denton Wyllie 20th Public Affairs Detachment

**MUZAFFARABAD, Pakistan** -- The world witnessed the best that U.S. military personnel had to offer following the devastating earthquake in Pakistan on Oct. 8.

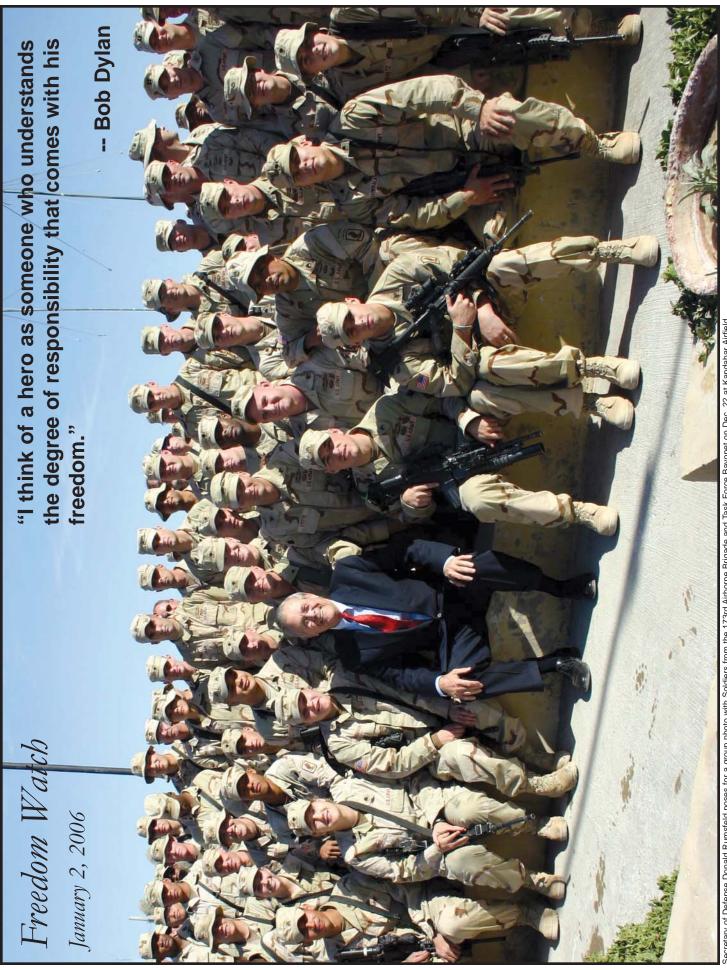
Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines contributed their time and effort to help the victims left in the aftermath of the quake by delivering food, administering medical aid and participating in search-andrescue missions.

Two months later, although the bulk of the immediate emergency work has been completed, American troops are still helping the people of Pakistan recover.

Navy Seabees are conducting multiple construction projects, Marines are loading pallets with food and medical supplies, and Air Force air-traffic controllers are directing aircraft from airfields throughout the country.

Army communications and medical personnel are helping to restore the country's damaged infrastructure and are treating hundreds of displaced Pakistani residents.

(Left) Army Dr. (Capt.) John Fernald, a pediatrician with the 212th Mobile Army Surgical Hospital examines a Pakistani baby.



Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld poses for a group photo with Soldiers from the 173rd Airborne Brigade and Task Force Bayonet on Dec. 22 at Kandahar Airfield. Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Jacob Caldwell, Task Force Bayonet Public Affairs